Forget-me-nots in Edinburgh / Lothians

These are best identified by looking at the *side* of the flower, at the hairs on the upper and lower stem and lobed cups at base of flower (calyx), and pulling the petals off to see the style length (at the flower centre). The stalks to the fruits are useful.

4 Sections - Jump to the section as follows:-

1. Tiny flowers that need a lens to see clearly

Visible flowers; the calyx (five-tooth cup holding flower) having hairs that

2. Stick-out
3. Press-on.

4. Distinctive escapees/occasionals or plants elsewhere

1. Tiny Flowers (lens helps!)

Changing – Widespread in damp spots - Myosotis discolor - Map

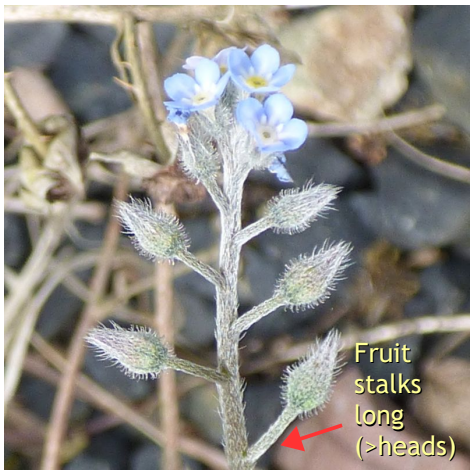
Early – City (eg Blackford Hill, Craiglockhart Hill, Arthur's Seat) and sporadically in the Edinburgh east - Myosotis ramosissima - Map

• Compare Field, which may have small flowers and looks similar

2. Larger Flowers, Calyx Teeth Narrow with Outward Hairs

Field - Widespread, except Pentland Hills - Myosotis arvensis - Map

- Flowers small but not usually miniscule (as Early has); a shade form has slightly larger flowers.



Wood – Common - Myosotis sylvatica - Map

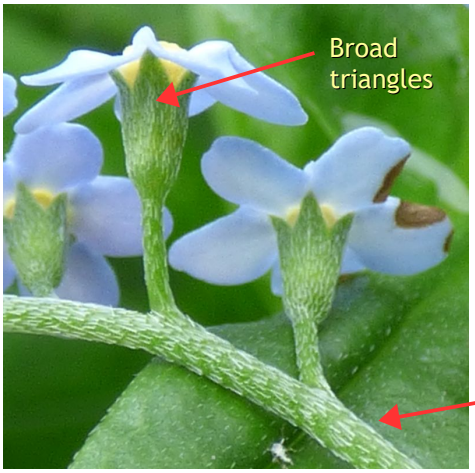
Alpine - Absent (for completeness: rare in Perthshire hills & Pennines) - Myosotis alpestris - Map

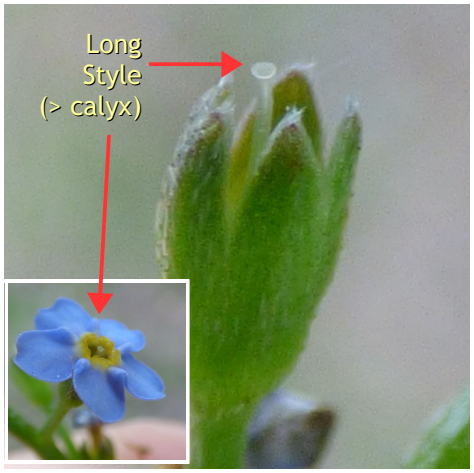
- Like a low/squat wood forget-me-not with rich, strong blue flowers. Stalks to fruiting heads <2x the heads, nutlets >2mm and blunt-tipped.

Photo from Alistair Crowle's flickr

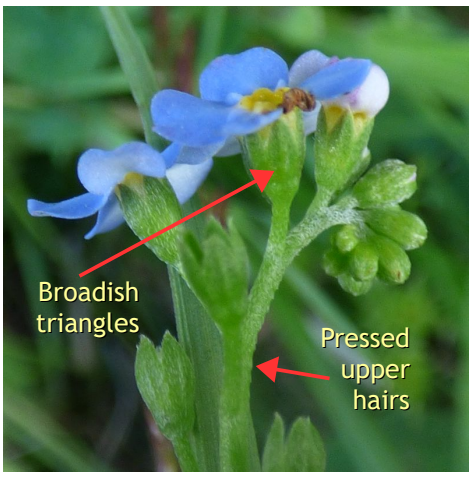
3. Larger Flowers, Calyx Teeth Wide with Pressed Hairs

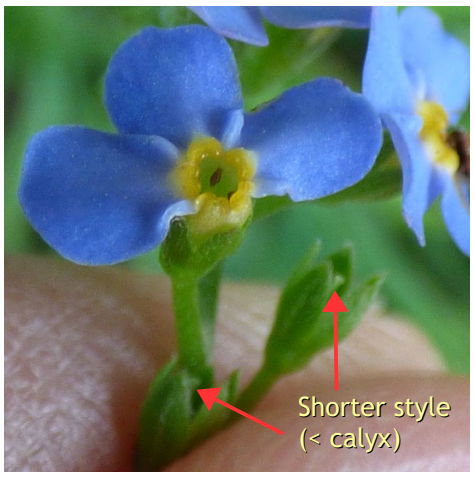
Water – Sprawling - Common (in water) - Myosotis scorpioides - Map





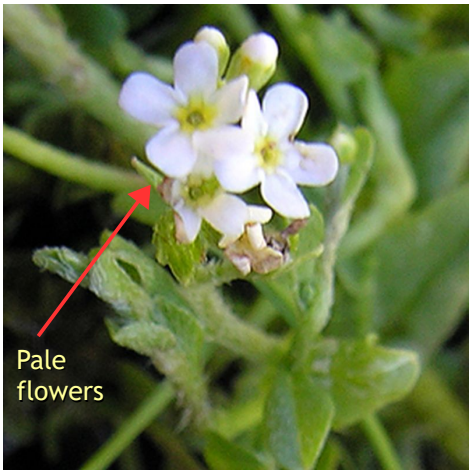
Creeping – Fruit stalks long (2.5-5 x head) - Commonish (damp spots) - Myosotis secunda - Map





Tufted – Commonish - Myosotis laxa - Map

Pale – Rare (wet areas), sporadically seen in Pentlands but present in the Peebleshire hills - Myosotis stolonifera - Map



These 3 photos from ukwildflowers.com & Wiki

4. Distinctive Escapees

Siberian Bugloss - Occasional escapee in city & to be seen in gardens - Brunnera macrophylla - Map

Bur Forget-me-not - Old records only - Lappula squarrosa - Map

Photo from Lynx's flickr

White Forget-me-not - Absent but scattered sites in the UK - Plagiobothrys scouleri - Map

Photo from worldbotanical.com

Jersey Forget-me-not - Confined to Jersey - Myosotis sicula

Straight pressed hairs, small shiny olive-brown nutlets (<1mm), annual (no unflowering shoots), calyx divided <50%.

Info

Updated : 2020-06-18

Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake

Facebook Botany Group for Lothians : facebook.com/groups/lothiansbotany

Other items in this Series : paintdrawer.co.uk/nature/edinburgh/downloads.htm